

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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FOR: PGM/RC; VOA; CINCPAC FOR ICA ADVISOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION--LNG-MONDALE

(1) THE LEFT-OF-CENTER NATIONALIST DAILY MERDEKA IN AN AUGUST 21 EDITORIAL ENTITLED "THE ARROGANT UNITED STATES," SAID, "THE VERBAL PROMISE OF WALTER MONDALE THREE MONTHS AGO THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL BUY INDONESIAN NATURAL GAS AT MARKET VALUE IS NOW IN A STATE OF STAGNATION."

(2) THE EDITORIAL, WHICH TOOK PERTAMINA DIRECTOR PIET HARJONO TO TASK FOR PUTTING INDONESIA INTO THE POSITION OF BEING "A BEGGAR" DURING HIS AUGUST 4 TO 16 VISIT TO THE U.S. TO CHECK ON THE LNG SITUATION CAME IN THE WAKE OF WEEKEND NEWS REPORTS IN MOST JAKARTA NEWSPAPERS QUOTING HARJONO ON HIS U.S. VISIT.

(3) THE INDEPENDENT DAILY KOMPAS RAN THE STORY UNDER A HEADLINE READING, "INDONESIA REGRETS U.S.; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY HAS NOT AGREED TO ESCALATING THE PRICE OF
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ARUN'S LNG." IT WAS KOMPAS' LEAD STORY.

(4) SUARA KARYA, VOICE OF THE GOLKAR PARTY, PLAYED THE ITEM AS ITS LEAD STORY, DECLARING, "EXPORT TO U.S. POSTPONED; NO AGREEMENT YET ON A FORMULA FOR CALCULATING THE PRICE OF LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS." BERITA YUDHA'S HEADLINE SAID, "THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT DECIDED WHETHER TO BUY INDONESIAN LNG;"

ANGKATAN BERSENJATA, SAID, "THE U.S. HAS NOT AGREED TO AN ESCALATING PRICE SYSTEM FOR EXPORTS OF INDONESIAN LNG." BOTH ARE ARMED SERVICES NEWSPAPERS. THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE INDONESIA TIMES HEADED THE STORY, "U.S. DISAGREES TO ESCALATING PRICE SYSTEM FOR INDONESIA'S LNG; IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THE U.S. WITHDRAWS PLAN, SAYS PIET HARJONO." THE INDONESIAN OBSERVER, THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SISTER PUBLICATION OF MERDEKA, RAN A HEAD SAYING, "INDONESIA IMPATIENT WITH LNG NEGOTIATIONS."

(5) MERDEKA'S EDITORIAL WENT ON TO SAY:

(6) BEGIN EXCERPTS) "THE POSTPONEMENT OF AN AGREEMENT ON THE PRICING SYSTEM BY THE CALIFORNIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY HAS BECOME THE SOURCE OF UNEASINESS AND ANNOYANCE FOR PIET HARJONO, DIRECTOR OF PERTAMINA ...

(7) "HARJONO'S BITTER EXPERIENCE HAS PUT INDONESIA INTO THE POSITION OF BEING A BEGGAR. THIS CAN BE TRACED TO THE FACT THAT PERTAMINA HAS NOW LOST ITS ONCE STRONG (POSITION OF) INFLUENCE AMONG FOREIGNERS, PARTICULARLY THE AMERICANS -- A POSITION ENJOYED BY THE PREVIOUS LEADERSHIP OF PERTAMINA.

(8) "THIS IS NOT THE FIRST SUCH EXPERIENCE THAT WE HAVE HAD WITH THE UNITED STATES, ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN WHICH DISCRIMINATION TOWARD DEVELOPING COUNTRIES STILL UNCLASSIFIED

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PREVAILS. IT SHOULD BE IGNORED. DURING BUNG KARNO'S TIME FOR EXAMPLE, HE WAS NOT TREATED BY PRESIDENT EISENHOWER IN A MANNER WHICH SHOULD BE ACCORDED THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA. HE HAD TO WAIT FOR ONE HOUR BEFORE EISEHOWER APPEARED TO MEET HIM. SUCH TREATMENT HAS OFTEN BEEN ACCORDED OTHER NATIONS IN THEIR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH WASHINGTON.

(9) "HARJONO'S THREAT TO SELL ARUN LNG TO SOME OTHER COUNTRY THAN THE UNITED STATES IS NOT CONVINCING, ESPECIALLY SINCE PERTAMINA'S (FINANCIAL) CONDITION DOES NOT PUT THE COMPANY IN A POSITION TO EITHER PROCLAIM OR CARRY OUT SUCH AN ULTIMATUM. AT PRESENT ALL THA PERTAMINA CAN DO IS TO WAIT FOR (A STROKE OF) KINDNESS FROM WASHINGTON ...

(10) "PERTAMINA'S BEST COURSE IS TO SEARCH OUT NEW MARKETS, TO LOOK FOR BUYERS WHO CAN BE BROUGHT INTO A MORE BUSINESS-LIKE NEGOTIATION..." (END EXCERPTS). ENDUSINFO. MABBATT

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